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# WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

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Affiliated with the National Education Association

*Every kid  
deserves a  
Great School!*

January 3, 2002

Renata B. Hesse  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
601 D. Street NW  
Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

VIA FACSIMILE: 1-202-307-1454

Dear Ms. Hesse:

The Wisconsin Education Association Council represents the public policy, labor and professional interests of its 92,000 members. WEAC is a strong voice, advocating for Great Schools for its members and for the 800,000 children in Wisconsin public schools.

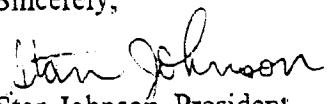
Every child deserves to attend schools that are wired and equipped with technology and to have teachers trained to effectively use technology in the classroom. WEAC supports the goals set forth in the proposed Microsoft class action settlement agreement to establish an independent foundation comprised of educators that will distribute technology funds, computers and software to the country's poorest schools and provide for teacher training.

These funds will be critical to Wisconsin, especially schools in our poor, small rural districts and some of our larger urban areas. Overall, Wisconsin falls below the national average in the categories of the percentage of fourth-grade and eighth-grade students in schools that make computers available in all classrooms and hours of training for teachers, according to "Technology Counts '99", a report issues by Education Week.

In addition, a 1999 survey of our members showed that only about half believe they receive sufficient training to run the computers and software in their districts and only 40 percent get sufficient help from their district to integrate the new technology into curriculum.

The proposed settlement will address both needs—to get computers into the classrooms and to train teachers on how to integrate them into the curriculum. We encourage the Department of Justice to accept the proposed settlement. Every child deserves a Great School, a school that is wired for the future.

Sincerely,

  
Stan Johnson, President  
Wisconsin Education Association Council

Stan Johnson, President  
Michael A. Butera, Executive Director

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